

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for screening a α -GABA_A receptor modulator for its potential as a sedative or anxiolytica, which method comprises the following steps:
 - a) exposing the compound to a test animal by administration; and
 - b) measuring the effect of the compound on the activity of the HPA axis.
2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the test animal is a mouse or a rat.
3. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the measurement of the activity of the HPA axis is performed by measuring, in a blood sample from the test animal after administration, the level of plasma corticosterone and/or ACTH.
4. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-3~~, comprising the further step:
 - c1) selecting the compound as a sedative drug candidate if the compound substantially stimulates the HPA axis.
5. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-3~~, comprising the further step:
 - c2) selecting the compound as an anxiolytica drug candidate if the compound has substantially no effect on the HPA axis.
6. (Currently amended) A drug development method, which comprises the identification of a compound by the method according to claim 1 ~~any one of the claims 1-5~~.
7. (Currently amended) The use of a compound identified as a sedative drug candidate by the method according to claim 1 ~~any one of the claims 1-4~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for the manufacture of a medicament for inducing anaesthesia, pre-anaesthesia, muscle relaxation, or sedation, or for treatment, prevention or alleviation of fever cramps or status epilepticus in a subject.
8. (Currently amended) The use of a compound identified as an anxiolytic drug candidate by the method according to claim 1 ~~any one of the claims 1-3 and 5~~ or a pharmaceutically

acceptable salt thereof for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment, prevention or alleviation of anxiety.

9. (Currently amended) A method for the treatment, prevention, or alleviation of anxiety comprising administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of a compound identified as a antiolytica by the method according to claim 1 ~~any one of the claims 1-3 and 5~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

10. (Currently amended) A method for inducing anaesthesia, pre-anaesthesia, muscle relaxation, or sedation, or for treatment, prevention or alleviation of fever cramps or status epilepticus anxiety comprising administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of a compound identified as a sedative by the method according to claim 1 ~~any one of the claims 1-4~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.